reappointed, other fake and bogus persons were appointed in their places. The case is pending before the Hon'ble High Court.

(c) Since the matter is subjudice, no further action could be taken on the enquiry conducted by the Deputy Commissioner, Dhanbad.

Kottadih Long Wall Project and Satgram Project in CIL

4289. SHRIMATI CHANDRA KALA PANDEY: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Kottadih Long Wall Project and Satgram Project in Eastern Coalfields Limited were undertaken with foreign collaboration;

(b) if so, the names of the organisations with whom collaboration was involved;

(c) what was the targeted coal production during 1997-98 and how much was fulfilled in both the projects; and

(d) the reasons that led to the shortfall in production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) Only Kottadih Longwall Project of Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL) was undertaken with foreign collaboration;

(b) Collaboration was with Charbonnages de France International (CdFI), France.

(c) Targetted coal production during 1997-98 and achievement in Kottadih U/G and Satgram Projects were as under:—

Project	Year	Target (Lakh Tonnes)	Achievement (Lakh Tonnes)
Kottadih (U/G)	1997-98	6.57	2.27
Satgram (U/G)	1997-98	4.40	1.01

(d) Kottadih Longwall Project could not attain the targetted coal production during 1997-98 due to inoperation of Powered Support Longwall (PSLW) equipment. The Shortfall in production in Satgram project was due to the delay in starting of Powered Support Longwall equipment, delay in dewatering and acquisition of land.

Captive mine Earmarked for specific Purposes

4290. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a Government guideline that the captive mines earmarked for specific purpose, i.e., thermal power stations, steel industry should be solely ued for designated purposes;

(b) if not, the reason therefor;

(c) if so, whether it is a fact that the captive mine owner for Bhadrawati Thermal Plant is being given exemption to sell coal for purposes other than power plant; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) and (b) Under the provisions of the Coal Mines Nationalisation Act as amended in 1993 and the guidelines thereunder, companies engaged in the production of iron & steel, cement and generation of power can mine coal for their own consumption. This would imply that such parties can mine coal for their own use and not for sale in the open market.

(c) and (d) The Central India Coal Company which would operate a captive mine for the Bhadravati power plant had sought for permision to sell coal to the Maharashtra State Electricity Board in certain eventualities. The Government had in consultation with the Attorney General and having regard to the provisions of the Colliery Control Order agreed in principle that in certain specific situations the coal company may be permitted to sell coal to parties other than the power station under the provisions of the Colliery Control Order. The reason for extending such a permission was that the accumulation of coal at a pithead represents a waste of a depleting natural resource and would not be in the interest of the economy.

Writing off Loans by Singareni Collieries Company Limited

4291. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Singreni Collieries Company Limited had approached Government for writing off of certain taxes and loans; and

(b) if so, what steps Government are proposing to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) and (b) A request from the Government of Andhra Pradesh to waive the outstanding interest of Rs. 663 crores accrued during VIII Plan in respect of the Singareni Collieries Company Limited has been received in the Ministry of Coal. This is part of an overall rehabilitation plan submitted by the Company. The proposal is under examination.

Incidence in Coal Mines

4292. SHRI C.O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Society for Participating Research in Asia has studied the incidence of Pnumoconiosis in coal mines;

(b) if so, the detail of the findings of the study; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to reduce incidence of this disease in coal mines in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) This Ministry and its formations are not aware of any such study conducted by the Society for Participating Research in Asia for the incidence of Pnumoconiosis in coal mines.

(b) Does not arise in view of reply to part (a) above.

(c) The disease is commonly known to be a reaction of the human body to excessive exposure to coal dust. In order to reduce exposure to coal dust measures to reduce the dust exposure have been laid down under the Coal Mines Regulations 1957, framed under the Mines Act, 1952. These give the maximum permissible limits of dust exposure, the technical guidelines for conducting airborne dust survey, the measures to be taken when the airborne dust content approaches the limits or crosses the limits and general measures for dust suppression to be undertaken in Coal Mines in India. These regulations are implemented in the mines of Coal India Limited. Under the relevant provisions of the Mines Rules 1955, medical examination of all workmen employed in coal mines is done once in every five years. In course of such examination known as periodic medical examination (PME) workers are subjected to radiological and pathological examination and such examination reveals the effecct of dust.

Coal India Limited has set up medical facilities with most advanced equipment operated by trained personnel. For this purpose 82 PME Centres have been provided and 49 Nos. International Labour Organisation standard X-Ray film sets provided for comparing with the X-Ray plates of workmen. Ninety four doctors have been especially trained for this purpose, out of whom fifty have been trained in U.K.

Recruitment in MCC Ltd.

4293. SHRI BHAGBAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the recruitment taken place since the formation of Mahanadi Coal Company Ltd. (MCCL) in its coal fields;

(b) the year-wise details thereof; and

(c) whether it is a fact that the local youths are not being given employment in that Company as compared to the appointment being given to the outsiders who do not belong to Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) Details of recruitments made in Mahanadi Coalfields Limited since its formation i.e., from 3.4.92 to 30.12.97 are as under:—

Jr. Overman/Mining Sirdar	92
Mine Surveyor/Surveyor (Trainee)	9
Foreman/Diploma Holder	86
Overseer (Civil)	6
Stenographer	19
Clerk/Typist	11
Jr. Technical Inspector	4
Driver	25
Security Guard	3
Accountant	8
Para Medical staff	66
HEMM operator	157
Technician ITI	564
TOTAL	1050